

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY:S/S-O:RELTZ

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 073758

FOL STATE 073758 SENT ACTION ADDIS ABABA ASMARA OTTAWA SENT
ACTION APR 11 REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 073758

E.O. 11652GDS

TAGS: PINS, CASC, ET

SUBJ: TENNECO FIVE

REFS: (A) ASMARA 241; (B) ASMARA 242; (C) STATE 72112;
(D) ADDIS 3917

1. REF B PRESENTS CONTRADICTORY PICTURE OF ELF DESIRES
IN TENNECO FIVE CASE. MESSAGE PARA 1, REF B APPARENTLY
ELF POSITION AS OF MARCH 30. AUTHENTICITY OF MESSAGE PARA
3, REF B IS MORE UNCERTAIN SINCE IT DID NOT COME DIRECTLY
FROM ELF AND MAY SERVE IEG INTERESTS. IMPERATIVE CONGEN
ASCERTAIN WHICH MESSAGE CURRENTLY OPERATIVE.

2. DEPARTMENT SERIOUSLY CONCERNED OVER PRESENT IEG
BUREAUCRATIC BUCKPASSING AND INACTION IN CASE DESCRIBED
REFS A AND D. FOR ASMARA: REQUEST PERRY SEEK
IMMEDIATE MEETING WITH GOVGEN OR HIGHEST RANKING DEPUTY
AVAILABLE, WHICH WE WOULD HOPE BURCHAELL WOULD ALSO ATTEND,
TO EXPRESS THIS CONCERN AND URGE RAPID FORMATION OF
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CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE PROPOSED PARA 2, REF D. COMMITTEE

SHOULD THEN MOVE RAPIDLY TO CONTACT ELF VIA ALL POSSIBLE MEANS INCLUDING LOCAL RADIO AND PRESS. FOR ADDIS: CHARGE SHOULD SEEK IMMEDIATE MEETING WITH APPROPRIATE CABINET OFFICIAL (FONMIN OR MININTERIOR) TO PRESS FOR POSITIVE IEG ACTION IN CASE. CHARGE SHOULD REQUEST IEG TO SPECIFY OFFICE AND PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR HANDLING CASE. WHILE RECOGNIZING MULTIPLE PROBLEMS WHICH IEG CURRENTLY FACES, CHARGE SHOULD AT SAME TIME MAKE IT PERFECTLY CLEAR THAT THIS IS MATTER OF GRAVE IMPORTANCE AND USG EXPECTS IEG TO TAKE PROMPTLY ALL FEASIBLE STEPS TO SECURE RELEASE OF CAPTIVES. WE PARTICULARLY ANXIOUS THAT ALL PARTIES WORK TOGETHER (I.E. IEG, GOVEGEN'S OFFICE, LOCAL SECURITY AUTHORITIES, TENNECO AND EMBASSY-CONGEN) AND NOT AT CROSS PURPOSES AS MAY BE CASE IN GOVGEN-TENNECO RELATIONSHIP (PARA 3, REF B). THERE WOULD UNDERSTANDABLY BE HIGHLY UNFAVORABLE PUBLIC AND PRESS REACTION WITHIN U.S. IF ANYTHING HAPPENED TO CAPTIVES, PARTICULARLY IF IT IS CLEAR THAT ALL POSSIBLE STEPS TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM HAD NOT BEEN TAKEN. YOU SHOULD ALSO REEMPHASIZE GREAT DANGER TO HOSTAGES IF IEG SHOULD ATTEMPT TO USE ANY KIND OF FORCE OR MILITARY THREAT. WE OBVIOUSLY DO NOT WANT ANY ACTION TAKEN WHICH COULD POSSIBLY ENDANGER LIVES OF MEN.

3. ALL ADDRESSEES: SINCE TWO CANADIANS ARE INVOLVED, CANADIAN GOVT MAY WISH CONSIDER HAVING REPRESENTATIVE OF CANADIAN EMBASSY PARTICIPATE IN DISCUSSIONS OF ANY ADVISORY/NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE WHICH IS ESTABLISHED. KISSINGER UNQUOTE
KISSINGER

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